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Urgent requests

The Office of Next-Generation Learners will use People Manager/SRIM to make sure that the lists are current. The list in People Manager will be used to determine who in districts will receive communications related to the various roles.

Please work with your KSIS district contact to make sure names are entered for the various roles. Three that we are focused on in this newsletter are Chief Academic Officer, Course Code Contact and Professional Development Coordinator.

Please use the link below to check the following lists and if your district is not represented by a name, please work with your KSIS contact to enter the appropriate name. It is imperative that these lists are accurate in order to ensure that information is getting to the folks in the districts who need it most.

Chief Academic Officer
Course Code Contact
Professional Development Coordinator

<http://applications.education.ky.gov/sdci/Other.aspx>

WEBCASTS

Superintendents

If you were unable to participate in the April 30 superintendents' webcast, you can access a recording of it at the following link:

<http://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/leadership/commissioner/2014/05/superintendent-webcast-april-2014/>.

There is no Superintendents' Webcast in May.

ISN Monthly

The next ISN webcast will be **May 30 at 1:30 pm** (EST). To access the webcast, go to <http://mediaportal.education.ky.gov>.

To access previous webcast and newsletters, go to <http://education.ky.gov/school/Pages/ISN.aspx>.

Updates

Kentucky Board of Education (KBE)

The next KBE meeting is scheduled for **June 4, 2014**. Some of the topics being discussed are textbook flexibility, preschool rates, proposal for World Language Program Review implementation timeline and a Professional Growth and Effectiveness System update. To access meeting materials, go to <http://education.ky.gov/KBE/meet/Pages/default.aspx>.

2014 Regular Session – Summary of Enacted Legislation: Attached is a summary of all legislation that passed impacting elementary and secondary education. If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Goff-Herman at (502) 564-4474 ext. 4815 or tracy.herman@education.ky.gov

Unbridled Learning

Standards

Leadership Networks for 2014-15 Academic Year: Leadership Networks for teacher leaders in both science and social studies will continue in the coming year. The networks will continue to focus on four main pillars: standards, assessment literacy, highly effective teaching and learning, and leadership. The selection of teacher leaders remains critical to the intent of this work—to build districtwide capacity that supports the implementation of standards through highly effective practices, which should manifest in greater student success and higher numbers and levels of educator effectiveness. The networks are not intended to provide professional learning only to those in attendance, but to develop knowledge,

skills, tools, and processes that can be utilized to scale in each district. Teacher leaders need to be provided opportunities to plan and then carry out professional learning for other educators districtwide. The most common comments/concerns we receive are that the teacher leaders are either not involved in district level planning or they are not provided opportunities to systemically work with others throughout the district.

The Leadership Networks were designed on the assumption that if each district had the opportunity to select a leadership team who would be given more intensive, ongoing support, then the district could use that team to scale learning to all others. A number of tools have been developed to help district teams assess their strengths and identify needs. One of those is the Innovation Configuration Map developed by Kentucky educators with Learning Forward. The IC Map helps define an ideal level of implementation of the four network pillars and can be used to assess current status and point toward best next steps to take. You can find that at:

http://learningforward.org/docs/default-source/commoncore/kyccss_icmaps.pdf?sfvrsn=2

In 2014-15, professional learning in the Leadership Networks will continue to emphasize integrating the pillars with the implementation of PGES to create a seamless system of both student success and educator success. We hope your district team is comprised of those committed to learning and leading others. Please use the summer to make any necessary adjustments to your team. Let the regional instructional specialists know of any changes as soon as possible.

Social Studies Standards Development Work Continues: The social studies standards development plan calls for a draft to be presented to the Kentucky Board of Education in the fall of 2014. The need for completion is driven by Senate Bill 1, which required all state standards to be revised.

The new Kentucky Core Academic Standards for Social Studies will be developed by Kentucky educators for Kentucky educators. Work has already begun on this development and has been progressing since late spring 2013. The initial standards revision and advisory team, composed of key stakeholders and experts from around the state, has brought this massive task to the point where development will need to be continued in smaller teams. The new standards will be informed by a document called the [College, Career, and Civic Life \(C3\) Framework for Social Studies](#). The C3 Framework is not a set of standards, but rather designed to assist states in updating, revising, or reinventing their state social studies standards. Other influential documents that will inform this work include the [Global Competency Matrix](#) and the [Framework for 21st Century Learning](#).

Regional writing teams are being formed now and will come together multiple days over the summer to draft standards. When the standards are drafted, there will be multiple opportunities, both invited and open, to provide feedback and input through comment periods both before and after they are presented to the board. KDE realizes that any new set of standards will create both emotional and professional reactions. While it is not possible to have every teacher in the state write or reach total consensus around a set of standards, it is our goal and hope that Kentucky will create a solid, defensible, world-class set of standards that moves social studies back into the core of knowledge critical to creating college and career readiness in all our students.

Expect more information to be shared regularly on this work. Leadership Networks participants will be deeply engaged as the work progresses.

Joint ISLN/KLA Summer Convening: Does every single student in every single school in your district have what they need to be successful? Successful in school...in work... in life? On June 26, we will hear engaging TED Talks and effective strategies from Kentucky educators during breakout sessions focused on effective teaching, learning and leadership. June 27 will be an optional day with facilitated work sessions around issues critical to Kentucky districts and schools (be sure to identify topics you would like to work on when you register).

Interested? Then plan to join educators from across the state to share expertise and learn together at the 2014 Joint ISLN/KLA Summer Meeting!

Registration is free and open to ANY educator in the state on a first come/first served basis. Ideally, all Leadership Network participants – teacher, school, and district leaders— will attend. Sessions will feature Kentucky educators! There is no registration fee, but all travel related expenses are the participants' responsibility.

The opening session on June 26 will begin at 8:30 a.m. ET with the day ending at 5 p.m. June 27 will begin at 8:30 a.m. ET and end at 11:30 a.m.

Register by June 13 at the conference website: <http://www.kypromiseccr.com/>

Program Reviews: As stated above, the KBE will discuss a proposal for World Language Program Review implementation at its June meeting. See information in KBE Update section for how to access.

Strategic Work

Next Generation Professionals (update)

Recalibration for principals for 2014-15. If a district is using PGES for personnel decisions in 2014-2015, we strongly recommend recalibration to ensure this could not be a reason for an appeal of an employment decision or the process.

- 1) If the district is not using PGES for personnel decisions in 2014-2015, but the person has been certified in the last 15 months, the person does not need to recertify for 2014-2015.
- 2) Those who have not become certified and will be evaluating/observing teachers must have initial certification.

Please direct any questions to Amanda.ellis@education.ky.gov.

PGES guidance on preschool and OPGES : Preschool -- In the 2014-15 school year, KDE is working with districts to pilot PGES for preschool teachers. **Attached** is guidance on the topic. **OPGES** - In the 2014-15 school year, KDE is working with districts to pilot PGES requirements for other professionals. **Attached** is guidance on the topic.

Panelists on Education Matters discussed PGES: On April 28, 2014, Dr. Amanda Ellis (KDE), Brad Clark (Simpson Elementary School, Woodford County), Brad Darnall (South Marshall Middle School, Marshall County), and Stephanie Winkler (President of the Kentucky Education Association and elementary science teacher, Madison County) appeared as panelists on *Education Matters* to discuss how the new

statewide Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (PGES) is helping Kentucky educators transform their classrooms through reflection and feedback from students and peers.

The program, which illustrates the nearly unprecedented cooperation between KDE and its education partners that has produced the PGES, is available [here](#).

Next Generation Learners

[AdvanceKentucky](#) is accepting [applications](#) from Kentucky public high schools for Cohort 8. Schools selected to participate (up to 20) would be involved in a three-year partnership that begins with the 2015-16 school year, kicking off with summer 2015 teacher training. Since AdvanceKentucky supports schools with student populations traditionally underrepresented in Advanced Placement (AP), the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) has identified a list of [target schools eligible to apply](#).

The voluntary application from an interested school is followed by site visits from the AdvanceKentucky team in fall 2014 to orient the school team to the “[open enrollment](#)” model for dramatically growing AP in math, science and English. Preference for scheduling fall onsite team orientations goes to applications received by **June 30**. Applications received after this date still will be reviewed, but may require scheduling visits later in the year. For context on how previous schools have performed, please see the [five-year performance report](#) and a [recent longitudinal study](#) of students that have graduated from AdvanceKentucky high schools.

Inquiries are encouraged and welcome at any time; contact Joanne Lang at jjlang@kstc.com or (859) 576-3282.

Criteria for Early Graduation from high school: Starting in the 2014-15 school year, certain students may opt for early graduation from high school. It provides students the opportunity to “move on when ready” after meeting both rigorous academic benchmarks and the definition of being college-ready. An early graduation candidate is a student who intends to meet all regulatory benchmarks on an accelerated pathway before the end of his/her third full year of enrollment. The criteria for early graduation requires a student to declare his/her intention to graduate early, complete an intent form, meet ACT college readiness benchmarks as determined by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education and meet minimum benchmarks on the four state-required end-of-course exams.

Early graduation is a deliberate pathway for students to receive a diploma from the district and be eligible for acceptance into a SACS-accredited Kentucky public or non-profit, two- or four-year college. 704 [KAR 3:305](#) provides a financial incentive, known as the Early Graduation Certificate, for the student to support this action.

For more information please visit <http://education.ky.gov/educational/AL/Pages/Early-Graduation.aspx> or contact Kelly Clark at kelly.clark@education.ky.gov.

Assessment and Accountability

ACT changes calculator guidelines for Compass tests: You may recall that recently the Kentucky Department of Education banned the use of all algebraic software programs on calculators used by students taking the ACT Compass test because the programs could give students an unfair advantage and possibly indicate a student is ready for college-level math when they are not. ACT, Inc. has now followed suit. Effective immediately, ACT is prohibiting calculators with built-in or downloaded computer algebra system functionality to be used on the Compass test. The policy affects all secondary and postsecondary institutions across the country. Please see the [guidance](#) from ACT on what is and is not allowed for Compass mathematics testing. ACT, Inc. is currently reviewing the calculator policy for its other assessments. Any questions should be directed to ACT Compass customer service at (800) 645-1992.

Alternate diplomas and grad rate: Each year when graduation rates are reviewed, a number of stakeholders rightfully raise an issue about students who receive alternative diplomas.

Students eligible to receive an alternative diploma are unable, even with accommodations, to access the general curriculum and must complete an alternative course of study. These students have the most significant cognitive disabilities and comprise about 1 percent of Kentucky's total student population. They participate in the state assessment and accountability system through alternate assessments. Alternate assessments measure standards linked to the general education standards, but with less depth and breadth. At the end of the student's education program, the student receives an alternate diploma.

Students who receive an alternate diploma are included in the state's graduation calculation; however, the way the alternate diplomas must be included in the calculation does not improve the school's graduation rate. The calculation process is set by the United States Department of Education (USED) and focuses on standard diplomas. USED prohibits a state from counting the alternate diploma as a standard diploma.

Kentucky Department of Education staff, local educators and I have all lobbied USED to change this rule. Unfortunately, the rule is still in effect and Kentucky must abide by the federal directives. The best avenue for change is for stakeholders to contact their congressional representatives in to get this rule changed. KDE has an appreciation of the issue and will continue to lobby for a change in the calculations with USED.

Next-Generation Science Standards update: In accordance with objectives of Senate Bill 1 (2009), it is the Kentucky Board of Education's (KBE) and Kentucky Department of Education's expectation that ALL grades would begin full implementation of the Next-Generation Science Standards in the 2014-15 school year. Work to do so has been underway for nearly a year in our Science Leadership Networks with that intent. Regarding testing, as directed at the board's April meeting, the department will be taking a proposal to the KBE in June concerning science testing at the elementary and middle school levels for the 2014-15 school year. The proposal will address how to align assessment issues with the new instructional emphasis on Next-Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

Additional Notes:

- From Office of Assessment and Accountability: As discussed with DACs, the first testing of the new science standards is expected in 2015-16, at the earliest. The KBE conversation in June will focus on options for testing during the transition period to promote the move to NGSS.
- From the Office of Next-Generation Learners: In accordance, the “Core Content 4.1” will be removed from our website following the end of this academic year. ALL RELEVANT STANDARDS will be contained within a single document, The Kentucky Core Academic Standards –available at: <http://education.ky.gov/curriculum/docs/pages/kentucky-core-academic-standards---new.aspx>
- Watch for more details following the June 4 Kentucky Board of Education meeting.

ACT DATA INTERPRETATION AND INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT WORKSHOPS: ACT’s new Learning Management Team is offering data interpretation and instructional support workshops across Kentucky. ACT consultants work with educators face-to-face to analyze data and identify implications for curriculum and instruction. The interactive workshop is designed to help educators improve student learning by using ACT solutions to make data-informed decisions.

These workshops are being offered at

Date	Location	Contact Name	E-mail/Phone
June 16	OVEC 100 Alpine Drive Shelbyville, KY	Tina Tipton	Ttipton@ovec.org 502-647-3533, ext. 266
June 18	WKEC WKEC Conference Center 435 Outlet Avenue Eddyville, KY	Carolyn Pennington	Carolyn.pennington@wkec.org 270-809-6966
June 19	SESC G.C. Garland Building 710 N. Main Street London, KY	Johnda Bales	Johnda.bales@sesccoop.org 859-625-6048
June 20	KEDC 904 Rose Road Ashland, KY	Donetta Trimble	Donetta.trimble@kedc.org 606-928-0205

More information is [attached](#).

Resources

Promoting positive behavior in schools sessions available: At the start of the 2013-14 school year, all Kentucky school personnel were required to have annual training in positive behavioral interventions and supports pursuant to [704 KAR 7:160, The Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion in Public Schools, Section 6\(1\)](#). *Promoting Positive Behavior in Schools I* is a free, online professional development course produced in collaboration by the KDE and KET, focused on preventing, decreasing, or eliminating

problem behavior through the implementation of positive instructional discipline strategies and systems in schools. Over 55,000 people have used this training and received certificates.

Promoting Positive Behavior in Schools II (PPBIS II) will be available June 1, 2014 to meet the 2014-15 training requirement. This year's training will be two (2) hours in length. The content focuses on district-wide implementation of positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS), relationship-building and de-escalation strategies. It also includes new videos featuring Kentucky schools and vignettes with actors showing how to de-escalate problem situations.

While there is no requirement for districts to use this specific training, it satisfies the requirements of the regulation and is free to districts.

Once PPBIS II is available, a second announcement will provide a link to the course along with the login instructions. PPBIS II, like PPBIS I, will be on PBS LearningMedia. If you have questions, please contact Gretta Hylton at Gretta.Hylton@education.ky.gov or at (502) 564-9850, ext. 4109.

Announcements

Digitally enhanced instruction professional learning opportunity: The Kentucky Department of Education and its digital learning team is sponsoring a hands-on professional learning opportunity focused on creating, enhancing and utilizing digital tools within the classroom.

“Increasing Engagement to Close Achievement Gaps” is designed to take educators from isolation to collaboration by providing accessible tools to direct, enhance and support digital learning and implementation of the Kentucky Digital Guidelines which are used when selecting or creating developmentally appropriate digital learning resources for instruction.

To ensure the increase of student engagement and achievement, the digital learning team will offer assistance to teachers throughout a 12-15 month period. It is our goal to create digitally enhanced and blended learning classrooms to serve as models for educators around the state.

The Digital Development and Delivery trainings will take place:

- June 10-11, Frankfort
- June 12-13, Ashland
- June 30-July 1, Bowling Green

See the **attached** announcement overview and follow this [link](#) to registration or go to the KDE digital learning webpage.

For questions about training or digitally enhanced, and blended learning practices please contact: Patrice Nyatuame, Patrice.nyatuame@education.ky.gov, (502) 564-4772 ext. 4053 or Tom Edgett, Thomas.edgett@education.ky.gov, (502) 564-4772 ext. 4018.

Effectively using staff make-up days: Let's TALK Conference: Just a reminder that if you are planning for your end of the year professional learning, one option might be for schools and districts to consider allowing teachers two days to attend the **TALK Conference** on June 16-17 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Louisville.

Let's TALK: Conversations about Effective Teaching and Learning is a conference for, by and about teachers, and is sponsored by the Kentucky Department of Education, Kentucky Education Association, Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence and the Fund for Transforming Education in Kentucky. Sessions will focus on practical strategies for implementing the Kentucky Core Academic Standards including the new science standards and on the Professional Growth and Effectiveness (PGES) system, among other topics. Participants can choose from more than 40 topics during five breakout sessions.

The TALK conference will start at 9 a.m. on June 16 and conclude by 4 p.m. on June 17. You may register [online](#). The registration fee is \$50. Schools may register groups of teachers and para-educators.

While it is up to districts to work out how to handle and verify this time as well as any expense involved, this would be an excellent and productive professional learning opportunity for teachers to make up two days missed due to inclement weather. For more information on the conference and a list of breakout sessions, click [here](#).